

Message Text

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TAGS: UNWFC

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL , SECOND DAY OF PRE-MINISTERIAL
MEETING.

SUMMARY: MOST OF MORNING DEVOTED TO STATEMENTS BY UN
AGENCIES ON PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE
RESOLUTIONS AND COMMENTS BY DELEGATIONS ON PROGRESS REPORT
BY SECRETARIAT (AGENDA ITEM 5.) . AFTERNOON SESSION
DEGEENRATED INTO PTOCEDURAL DEBATE ON WHETHEJGMOST RECENT
FAO COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS OR WFC SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS
SHOULD CONSTITUTE BASIS FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION .
DELEGATES GENERALLY UNWILLING PRE-EMPT MINISTERS BY
DISCUSSING SUBSTANCE. END SUMMARY

1. CHAIRMAN (MAREIW ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF WORKING GROUP
ON RUWQES OF PROCEDURES CONSITING OF 16 MEMBERS --10 LDCS,
4 DCS AND 2 SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

2. DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM 5- PROGRESS REPORT INTRODUCED
BY KOKVKY OF WFC SECRETARIAT. EIGHT UN AGENCIES INCLUDING
GATT AND UNCTAD REPORTED ON ACTIVITIES AS THEY RELATED TO WORLD
FOOD COFERENCE RESOLUTIONS. COUNCIL MEMBERS GENERALLY
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COMMENDED DOCUMENTATION WITH ARGENTINA NOTING FAILURE OF SOME

DCS TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION XIX BY MAINTAINING RESTRICTIVE IMPORT POLICY ADVERSELY AFFECTING MEUR EXPORTS OF LDCS. ARGENTINE DELEGATE CALLED ON COUNCIL TO REQUIRE ALL GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ACTIONS THEY ARE TAKING TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTIONS PARTICULARLY RESOLUTION XIX. INDIA ALSO WANTED COUNTRIES TO REPORT ON WHAT THEY ARE DOING TOWARD THE CREATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND EMPHASIZED NEED FOR INCREASED FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR LDCS. ALTHOUGH CANADA SUGGESTED NEED FOR GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS UN AGENCIES TO REPORT TO WFC, AUSTRALIA OPPOSED PROGRESS REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS TO WFC. SOCIALIST COUNTRIES CALLED ATTENTION TO FAILURE OF PROGRESS REPORT SHOW ACTION TAKEN BY COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO SOCIAL AND AGRARIAN REFORM.

3. DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM 6. 5 REVIEW OF WORLD FOOD SITUATION. AZIZ OF WFC SECRETARIAT INTRODUCED DOCUMENTATION PREPARED BY WFC SECRETARIAT AND NOTED EXISTENCE OF FOUR FAO DOCUMENTS. ALTHOUGH AZIZ NOTED THAT GRAIN OUTLOOK APPEARED GOOD, HE CAUTIONED THERE COULD BE PROBLEMS WITH FALL HARVEST SIMILAR TO SITUATION WHICH OCCURRED LAST YEAR WITH RESPECT US CORN PRODUCTION. IN LIGHT THIS POSSIBILITY AND FACT THAT FOOD SITUATION WILL CONTINUE BE DIFFICULT FOR MANY LDCS, HE URGED COUNCIL CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS BY SECRETARIAT ON FOOD AID, WORLD FOOD SECURITY, FOOD PRODUCTION, INCLUDING INPUTS AND IFAD WHICH HE TERMED MOST IMPORTANT INITIATIVE OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

4. PROCEDURAL DEBATE TOOK MOST OF AFTERNOON AS DC DELEGATES SOUGHT TO BASE DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS RECENTLY APPROVED BY FAO COUNCIL WHILE WFC SECRETARIAT AND LDCS URGED USE OF SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS. --- AUSTRALIA AND US CHALLENGED BASIS FOR AZIZ PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF CROP OUTLOOK BUT THERE WAS MORE INTEREST IN PROCEDURAL DEBATE THAN IN SUBSTANCE SINCE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION WAS TO BEGIN TOMORROW AND DELEGATES WERE RELUCTANT TO JUMP THE GUN ON STATEMENTS BY THEIR MINISTERS. FRENCH DELEGATE SUGGESTED THAT WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WOULD NOT BE DOING THE JOB ENTRUSTED TO IT BY WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND UNGA IF IT WERE TO BECOME A "COURT OF APPEALS" FROM ACTION AGREED UPON IN ANOTHER BODY. COMPROMISE FINALLY AGREED UPON UNCLASSIFIED

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IS THAT MINISTERS WILL HAVE BEFORE THEM BOTH THE SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY FAO COUNCIL. HANNAH MADE PLEA THAT FOR LONG-TERM INTEREST, SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS, EVEN IF SUPERSEDED BY ACTION IN ANOTHER FORUM, SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION BY MINISTERS.

5. CHAIR NOTED THAT MINISTERIAL MEETING BEGINNING TOMORROW

WOULD HAVE TO ADOPT SAME AGENDA AS ADOPTED ON MONDAY.

6. OECD/DAC GROUP MET BEFORE PLENARY AND SELECTED US, AUSTRALIA FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND SWEDEN AS REPRESENTATIVES ON WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF PROCEDURE. GROUP ALSO AGREED THAT RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT RECENT FAO MEETINGS-- WORLD FOOD SECURITY, FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES-- SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS BY WFC SECRETARIAT, ESPECIALLY SINCE WFC SECRETARIAT DRAFTS WERE ONLY REPETITION OF ORIGINAL FAO SECRETARIAT DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THOSE MEETINGS. GROUP WILL DISCUSS AGENDA ITEM ON FUTURE PROGRAM OF WORK AT WEDNESDAY MORNING MEETING. VOLPE

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